

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants note a first Preliminary Amendment was submitted on 19 June 2001 in conjunction with the national phase application; claims 1-20 were canceled by this preliminary amendment. The restriction requirement identifies claims 1-36 as still pending. Applicants respectfully request review of the pending claims in view of the first Preliminary Amendment.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of thirteen (13) groups. Applicants believe that Groups I-X pertain only to the previously canceled claims 1-20.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect without traverse Group XI (claims 21-26; drawn to a method of identifying a compound that decreases binding between a protein and a B cell receptor, for prosecution on the merits at this time. Applicants note that SEQ ID NO:1 (recited in independent claim 21) is included within SEQ ID NO:2 (recited in dependent claim 22). See final page 1, lines 29-31, and Figures 1 and 2 of the specification.

Respectfully submitted,

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